

Application No. 10/025,249  
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a detecting section which detects that a lifetime of an expendable used to form images is expiring, based on only one  
5 parameter;

a counting section which counts a used amount of the expendable, from a time when the detecting section detects that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring; and

a control section which disregards ~~the fact~~ a subsequent  
10 detection by the detecting section that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring, ~~even when the fact is detected again before until~~ the counted used amount of the expendable, ~~which is counted by the counting section,~~ reaches a prescribed value.

2. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an interface ~~communicably~~ to be connected communicably to a computer installed at a seller of the expendable; and

5 ~~a mode storage section storing a mode in which~~ wherein an order for the expendable is automatically placed with the computer installed at the seller of the expendable, when the

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detecting section detects that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring.

3. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a display section which displays a message when the detecting section ~~detects again~~ makes the subsequent detection that the lifetime is expiring.

4. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the expendable ~~is~~ comprises a drum incorporated in a process unit.

5. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the used amount is a number of sheets printed by using the drum.

6. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the expendable ~~is~~ comprises toner contained in a toner cartridge.

7. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the used amount is an amount of the toner used.

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8. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, comprising:

detecting that a lifetime of an expendable used to form images is expiring, based on only one parameter;

5 counting a used amount of the expendable, from a time when the detecting section detects that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring; and

10 disregarding ~~the fact a subsequent detection~~ that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring, ~~even when the fact is detected again before~~ until the counted used amount of the expendable ~~, which is counted,~~ reaches a prescribed value.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, according to claim 8, further comprising:

5 automatically placing an order for the expendable with ~~the a~~ computer installed at ~~the a~~ seller of the expendable, when ~~the counting section detects~~ it is detected that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, according to claim 8, further comprising:

displaying a message when the ~~detecting section detects~~ again the subsequent detection that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring occurs.

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11. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, according to claim 8, wherein the expendable ~~is~~ comprises a drum incorporated in a process unit.

12. (Previously Presented) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, according to claim 11, wherein the used amount is a number of sheets printed by using the drum.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, according to claim 8, wherein the expendable comprises a toner cartridge containing toner.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, according to claim 13, wherein the used amount is an amount of the toner used.